

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed January 9, 2004, which required an election of one of the four species identified by the Examiner.¹ In order to advance prosecution and respond to the election of species requirement, Applicant hereby elects the species identified by the Examiner as Group III, claims 100-139, for initial examination on the merits. However, independent claims 29, 65 and 140 have been amended to include language regarding the knowledge base element of claim 100. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 100 is generic to all of the claims now pending in the Application, and that claims 29-47, 49-82, 84-158 and 160-175 read on the elected species.

Applicant notes that independent claims 29, 65, and 140 have been amended without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of a continuing application directed to broader claims.

Claims 48, 83, and 159 have been cancelled.

Claims 29, 32, 37, 38, 39, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 60, 61, 62, 63, 65, 67, 70, 74, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 95, 96, 97, 98, 100, 102, 103, 104, 114, 118, 125, 126, 127, 132, 133, 140, 144, 147, 150, 151, 152, 157, 158, 160, 161, 162, 171, 172, 173 and 174 have been amended to clarify that the user may be situated on either side of a transaction. For example, in the employment context, the user may be either (1) an individual or entity (e.g., an employer or an employer's agent such as an employee search firm) seeking an individual or entity to provide work services or (2) an individual or entity (e.g., a prospective employee or independent contractor) seeking an individual or entity to provide a job. (The foregoing sentence provides an example, and is not intended to limit the claimed invention.)

Claims 49, 50, 54, 55, 57, and 59 have been amended to revise their dependency.

Claims 84, 85, 89, 90, 92, and 94 have been amended to revise their dependency.

Claims 160, 161, 165, 166, 168, and 170 have been amended to revise their dependency.

Claims 50, 103, and 161 have been amended to change "knowledgebase" to "knowledge base".

¹ The Office Action states that "[a] telephone call was attempted on 1/4/03 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made." (Office Action, p. 3.) The undersigned notes that the subject claims were not filed until November 19, 2003 so that the date identified in the Office Action was perhaps intended to be 1/1/04. In any event, the undersigned has no record of receiving a phone call on Sunday, 1/1/04, regarding an election.

Claims 57, 58, 89, 110, 111, 165, 168 and 169 have been amended for syntactical reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is requested that all of the claims now pending be examined and allowed, and that the Application be passed onto allowance.

Should the Examiner not find the Application to be in allowable condition or believe that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of the Application, Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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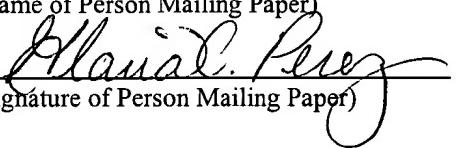
Date: February 9, 2004

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Gloria C. Perez
(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

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